

Minutes of the Southeast PTO
February 5, 2007

CALL TO ORDER: 7:20 PM

IN ATTENDANCE: Norma Fisher-Doiron, Edmond Chibeu, Monique Brown, Ron Baker, Kimberly Christenson, Sondra Dunnigan, Margaret Morrison, Kim O'Keefe, Ruth Washington, Cathie Salai, Anna Cramer

THANK YOU'S: Ron Baker

Linda Blum

For coordinating 3rd/4th Grade Science Sampler

Nancy Gifford, Amy Chibeu

For her continuing work on the Directory

Marie Leibman

for presenting at Parents Hour

All the families that donated games to the indoor recess program

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Norma Fisher Doiron

Calendar of Events passed around to review

Highlights:

February

16th = PE Trestle Tree program ends

Dental Health presentations – Kim O'Keefe

19th – 23rd = Vacation

March – Nutrition Month

2nd = Dr. Seuss Day – Read Across America

5th -16th = 3rd & 4th grade CMTs

5th = CT Ballet @11AM

16th = CT COLT Rhyme Celebration @ MMS

23rd = Professional Development Day – No School

28th = Science Fair/Invention Convention @ 6:30PM

Parents Hour, "Supporting Your Child's Friendships and Social Interactions at School" by Marie Leibman, was well attended (16). Marie did a great job. It was a nice opportunity for parents and teachers to share ideas with each other. Handouts were available. There was a suggestion that there be an iPod safety presentation for the next Parent's Hour. Norma Fisher-Doiron will speak with Amy Chibeu and Jill Devor about this.

Parking Lot Issues: The Superintendent, School Custodian, and Town Engineer who specializes in traffic control are looking into the safety of our current parking lot situation. A big part of the problem is that there are not enough parking spaces available right now. Also, cars are entering too fast through the stop sign, which is not very

visible. In addition, there are troublesome situations compromising the safety of children: children are running around the parking lot and are being left alone in cars during pick up time. A parent, Jean Phillips, is working with school on this. The team is talking with parents and the Assistant Superintendent about issues and monitoring entering and exiting cars. This Thursday there will be a meeting with the town engineer and the traffic control committee as this is considered a town issue. Norma requested that we spread the word that we are trying to make the parking lot safer. There was an article in the school's last newsletter about this. One thing being considered is an expansion of the current parking lot. In the meantime, please make every effort to park your car in the designated areas and escort your child to and from school.

TEACHER'S REPORT: Monique Brown

Monique passed out a thank you letter from Sue Irvine, Julie Brennan, and a group of students thanking the PTO for sponsoring the Student Leadership Conference that they attended.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Monique Brown

January's minutes were reviewed.

AMENDMENTS: Change month to from November to January for the Treasurer's Report

Motion for acceptance by: Margaret Morrison

2nd by : Ron Baker

All in Favor

TREASURER'S REPORT: Lesley Sweeney

February's Report was reviewed:

Highlights: Gave to the Adrienne and Daniel Vitullo trust fund: \$200

Only need to put \$2700 in the playscape budget (not \$5,200)

Tag Sale can go to general fund

Motion to accept report: ?

Seconded by: ?

All in Favor

FUNDRAISING REPORT:

The Fundraising committee is still considering doing the Spring Bulb fundraiser to keep people in the habit of buying bulbs in the spring.

OTHER:

Indoor Recess Supplies: Enough games have been received from families so we can hold onto the PTO money set aside for this.

Parent Directory: The first draft is done but it needs to be proof-read by someone. There was a suggestion to have a sign up for the directory at the Kindergarten Orientation. Monique will look into this further.

The Science Samplers filled up quickly this year. It was mentioned that we could use coordinator for this next year.

Kim O'Keefe mentioned that she needs help and donations for the Spring Tag Sale. It is May 19th (the weekend before Memorial Day)

It was suggested that we do more to advertise volunteer opportunities. Possibly we could post a sign-up on the Parent's Board which could be changed on a monthly basis? Should we also post this by the sign in log?

It was mentioned that we need someone to help organize the glow necklace sale at the Town of Mansfield summer event. Karen Sommer will be involved in this again. It was suggested that we offer fewer choices this time and that we charge more.

2007: Goals and Officers for next year:

PRESIDENT: Kim O'Keefe volunteered to be president for the next two years if no one else wants the position.

VICE PRESIDENT: Kimberly Christenson offered to talk with Ron Baker about assuming his responsibilities as Vice President.

TREASURER: Lesley Sweeney offered to continue on in her post if no one else was interested in the position.

SECRETARY: Monique Brown offered to continue on in her post if no one else was interested in the position.

Goals:

Continue Enrichment Opportunities – especially in the sciences and math.

Continue Parent's Hour – Organize topics for the year

Improve Communication - Design a web page for the PTO, utilize the Parent's Board more efficiently, utilize the newsletters more for communication to reduce flyers

Sondra Dunnigan was interested in the Trestle Tree program and how it works. Norma mentioned that all PE teachers have been trained to implement this program and that it has been here for about 14 years. It is VERY popular with students and families.

Needy Family highlighted: Lost home to a fire. Norma will contact the Southeast Sunshine Fund to see about a donation. The notice will be posted on the Parent Board.

Donations can be made to: The James Family Fund
@ New Alliance Bank
6 Storrs Road
Willimantic, CT 06226
465-2791
Contact = Tara Rogers 429-0512

Winter Fun Day February 11th at the Community Center: Andrew Ewalt's Law Office is sponsoring a "Wacky Hat" competition. The winner's school/grade gets one hour of free ice time at UConn. There will be individual prizes too.

Edmond Chibeu wanted to mention that he was thrilled that we spoke about "big issues" at this PTO meeting.

Motion to adjourn: Margaret Morrison

Motion seconded by: Ron Baker

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:15 PM
RESPECTIVELY SUBMITTED BY: MONIQUE M. BROWN 2/9/07
NEXT MEETING: March 5th, 2007